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VISAS DONKEY

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1. VISAS DONKEY

2. SCHOETTLE, EMIL GERMANY  
JANUARY 4, 1914 EIGENFELD, ROMANIA  
RETIRED TEACHER

3. APPLICANT, WHO PREVIOUSLY TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1974; PLANS TO TRAVEL TO EUGENE, OREGON THIS JULY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 8TH WORLD VETERAN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS, A SPORTS COMPETITION FOR

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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SENIOR CITIZENS. HE THEREFORE APPLIED TO HAVE HIS PREVIOUS VISA TRANSFERRED INTO HIS CURRENT PASSPORT. WHILE SURPRISED AT THE NEED FOR AN INTERVIEW, HE PROVED COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL THROUGHOUT HIS TALK WITH CONOFF.

4. APPLICANT WAS BORN IN BESSARABIA, THEN A PART OF RUSSIA, IN 1914. AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR I AND A BRIEF PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE, THE AREA BECAME A PART OF ROMANIA. MR. SCHOETTLE ATTENDED GYMNASIUM THERE UNTIL 1934, WHEN HE TRANSFERRED TO A HOCHSCHULE IN BERLIN TO STUDY SPORT, JOURNALISM AND ECONOMICS. HE RETURNED TO ROMANIA IN 1935 IN ORDER TO COMPLETE HIS REQUIRED MILITARY SERVICE. THE BDC SUMMARY SUPPORTS THIS STATEMENT, NOTING THAT MR. SCHOETTLE SERVED IN THE ROMANIAN ARMY FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1935-OCTOBER 30, 1936. AFTER COMPLETING HIS MILITARY SERVICE IN ROMANIA, HE STATED, HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FOR ONE YEAR DUE TO HIS GERMAN FAMILY BACKGROUND. HE SPENT THE YEAR WORKING ON HIS FATHER'S ESTATE. IN THE FALL OF 1937, HE RETURNED TO THE HOCHSCHULE IN BERLIN AND STUDIED THERE UNTIL FALL 1939. MR. SCHOETTLE AFFIRMED THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANY FASCIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES IN BERLIN, NOR HAD HE EVER HAD ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE IRON GUARD IN ROMANIA.

5. WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR IN SEPTEMBER, MR. SCHOETTLE STATED, HE WAS DRAFTED INTO THE WAFFEN-SS. THIS IS SUPPORTED BY THE BDC SUMMARY, WHICH ASSERTS THAT ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1939, MR. SCHOETTLE JOINED THE WAFFEN SS, SS-NUMBER 474318. MR. SCHOETTLE ADDED THAT HE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT "LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**" AND STATIONED IN BERLIN FROM SEPTEMBER 1939 TO APRIL 1940 FOR TRAINING. IN APRIL 1940, HE CONTINUED, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO SS DIVISION "DAS REICH" AND TRANSFERRED TO LUDWIGSHAUSEN IN WESTFALIA. ON MAY 10, ACCORDING TO MR. SCHOETTLE'S RECOLLECTION, HIS UNIT PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND WAVE OF THE INVASION OF FRANCE. IN JUNE 1940 THE UNIT WAS TRANSFERRED AGAIN, TO AMERSFORT, HOLLAND WHERE MR. SCHOETTLE RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE USE OF HEAVY ARTILLERY. THIS TRAINING LASTED UNTIL JANUARY 1941. DURING THE TIME HE WAS STATIONED IN HOLLAND, MR. SCHOETTLE ASSERTED, HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

6. MR. SCHOETTLE STATED THAT IN JANUARY 1941 HIS UNIT WAS SENT BACK TO FRANCE, TO VERSULE, BURGUNDY. THERE, HE ADDED, THE SOLDIERS RECEIVED FURTHER ARTILLERY TRAINING. DURING THIS TIME, MR. SCHOETTLE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF UNTERSCHARFUEHRER. IN APRIL 1941, MR. SCHOETTLE CONTINUED, HIS UNIT WAS SENT AS PART OF THE INVASION OF THE BALKANS THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA TO THE BANAT PROVINCE IN ROMANIA. FROM THE END OF APRIL 1941 TO JUNE, 1941, MR. SCHOETTLE ADDED, HE WAS SENT TO LINZ, AUSTRIA FOR FURTHER TRAINING. IN AN

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ARTILLERY DIVISION. THIS TRAINING LASTED UNTIL JUNE 1941.

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7. ON JUNE 22, 1941, ACCORDING TO MR. SCHOETTLE, HIS UNIT WAS SENT TO POLAND. FROM THERE, THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION, PROCEEDING TO SOME 20 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BREST-LITOVSK, FROM THERE TO MUSCHIASK, BY TRAIN TO PRELUTZKY (UKRAINE) AND THEN TOWARDS MOSCOW. IN DECEMBER 1941, MR. SCHOETTLE NOTED, HIS UNIT RETREATED, HAVING BEEN SOME 20 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF MOSCOW. THE UNIT WAS SENT TO VALLINGBOESTEL, IN WESTFALIA, FOR REARMAMENT AND TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TROOPS. MR. SCHOETTLE ADDED THAT HE AND HIS UNIT WERE THEN TRANSFERRED BACK TO FRANCE, TO VILLEDIEU.

8. IN MAY 1942, MR. SCHOETTLE RECALLED, THE UNIT WAS AGAIN TRANSFERRED, TO RENNES, BRITTANY. THEY REMAINED THERE, HE STATED, UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER. THE BDC SUMMARY NOTES THAT DURING THIS PERIOD, ON AUGUST 1, 1942, MR. SCHOETTLE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT. IN NOVEMBER 1942, THE BDC SUMMARY ADDS, MR. SCHOETTLE BELONGED TO THE 4TH BATTALION/ARTILLERY REGIMENT SS-DIVISION "DAS REICH."

9. MR. SCHOETTLE REMEMBERS THAT IN ABOUT JANUARY 1943 HE WAS SENT TO OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL IN BENESCHAU, BOHEMIA, SOME 40 KILOMETERS FROM PRAGUE. THIS TRAINING LASTED, HE STATED, UNTIL THE END OF MAY. THE BDC SUMMARY SUPPORTS MR. SCHOETTLE'S GENERAL RECOLLECTION, NOTING THAT FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1943 TO MAY 31, 1943, MR. SCHOETTLE TOOK PART IN THE 9TH WAR RESERVE OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE AT THE SS ARTILLERY SCHOOL II. IN APPROXIMATELY SUMMER 1943, MR. SCHOETTLE ASSERTED, HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF 2ND LIEUTENANT. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO A TROOP TRAINING CAMP IN POLAND FOR FURTHER TRAINING. THE BDC SUMMARY, WHILE CONFIRMING THAT MR. SCHOETTLE WAS PROMOTED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1943 TO 2ND LIEUTENANT, STATES THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 2ND SS ARMORED CORPS. MR. SCHOETTLE, HOWEVER, DISPUTES THIS ASSERTION, RECALLING THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A REPLACEMENT BATTALION WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING RECRUITS. HE WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE DISCREPANCY. THE BDC DOES NOTE FURTHER, HOWEVER, THAT ON APRIL 1, 1944 MR. SCHOETTLE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SS ASSAULT GUN TRAINING AND REPLACEMENT BATTALION.

10. THE BDC SUMMARY ALSO ADDS THAT ON THE SAME DATE MR. SCHOETTLE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ASSAULT GUN BATTALION, 2ND SS ARMORED DIVISION "DAS RELCH." MR. SCHOETTLE DENIES THIS ASSERTION AS WELL, RECALLING ONLY HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE REPLACEMENT BATTALION. IN

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THE SUMMER OF 1944, MR. SCHOETTLE RECALLED, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT "UNTERNEHMEN SCHIL" AND SENT WITH THIS UNIT TO SLOVAKIA TO SUPPRESS THE SLOVAK UPRISING. HE REMEMBERS FIGHTING IN PRESSBURG, RESCHOV, AND TSCHERNITZ DURING THIS PERIOD. IN RESPONSE TO CONOFF'S QUESTIONING, HE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE ALWAYS FOUGHT AGAINST SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM, AND NEVER WITNESSED ANY ATROCITIES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE BDC SUMMARY NOTES THAT ON NOVEMBER 9, 1944, MR. SCHOETTLE WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST LIEUTENANT, ASSIGNED TO SS ANTI-TANK ASSAULT GUN TRAINING AND REPLACEMENT BATTALLON 3. MR. SCHOETTLE CONFIRMED THIS STATEMENT AS CORRECT, ADDING THAT HE REMAINED IN SLOVAKIA UNTIL JANUARY 1945.

11. IN JANUARY 1945, MR. SCHOETTLE CONTINUED, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO DIVISION 32 "JANUARY 30." THEY WERE STATIONED ON THE ODER NEAR FUERSTENBERG. MR. SCHOETTLE STATED THAT HE REMAINED THERE UNTIL MAY 1945, WHEN HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER OF WAR BY SOVIET TROOPS. HE ESCAPED TWICE, BUT WAS RECAPTURED EACH TIME. HE REMAINED A PRISONER OF WAR IN THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL OCTOBER 13, 1955. DURING THAT TIME, HE WAS HELD IN SOME 13 PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS, IN STALINGRAD AND THE URALS, WEST OF SVERDLOVSK. MR. SCHOETTLE STATED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD CONVICTED HIM ON THE BASIS OF HIS TRAINING AS A SOLDIER, TRESPASSING ON SOVIET TERRITORY, AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 STUTTGART 01229

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SENTENCING HIM TO DEATH. THIS WAS COMMUTED TO A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SENTENCE. UPON HIS RELEASE IN 1955, WHICH MR. SCHOETTLE ATTRIBUTES TO THE EFFECTS OF ADENAUER'S VISIT, MR. SCHOETTLE SETTLED IN TUEBINGEN AND CONTINUED HIS STUDIES.

12. THE BDC SUMMARY NOTES THAT MR. SCHOETTLE WAS AWARDED THE EASTERN FRONT MEDAL FOR THE WINTER OFFENSIVE 1941-1942 AND THE WOUND BADGE IN BLACK. MR. SCHOETTLE HIMSELF ADDED THAT HE ALSO EARNED THE IRON CROSS, BOTH FIRST AND SECOND CLASS.

13. MR. SCHOETTLE PROVED EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND UNHESITANT THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF. HE WAS CLEAR IN HIS STATEMENTS THAT HE NEITHER PARTICIPATED IN NOR WITNESSED ANY ACTIVITY THAT WOULD FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF 212 (A) 33. IF DEPARTMENT CAN CONFIRM THAT THE UNIT TO WHICH MR. SCHOETTLE WAS ASSIGNED WAS NOT INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES, CONOFF WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO VISA ISSUANCE. GRIFFIN

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END OF MESSAGE

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